mercial manufacture of low-cost helicopters at Export Processing Zones; and

(b) if so, what are the incentives considered to be given for such a venture?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) (a) and (b) M/s. Naras Aviation Pvt. Ltd had been permitted in January, 1987 to set up a project in Madras Export Processing Zone for the manufacture and export to USA of air frames and skin panels for helicopters.

The company has now submitted an application for the manufacture of complete helicopters.

Facilities granted to ventures established in Export Processing Zones include duty free import of capital goods and production inputs, a five year tax holiday and a developed production infrastructure, etc.

Reversion of clerk incharge to senior clerk in sales tax department of Delhi Administration

3937. SHRI MIRZA IRSHAD BAIG: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some posts of Clerk Incharge in Sales Tax Department, Delhi Administration in the pay scale of Rs. 130—300 plus Rs. 15 per month as special pay were filled from amongst Senior Clerks prior to framing of subordinate services rules, 1967;

(b) whether by implementation of Subordinate Services Rules all the Clerk Incharges were reverted and clubbed with Senior Clerks, if so, the reason therefore;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Third Pay Commission also accepted the post of Clerk Incharge as Clerical Supervisory posts and assigned the scale of Rs. 425—600; and

(d) whether these Clerks have represented and their representations are still pending with Services Department of Delhi Administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Violation of FERA by Jyotsna Holding

3938. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered an inquiry into the case of FERA violation committed by Jyotsna Holding for getting commission or consultation charges from Sumitomo Corporation of Japan; if so, when the order for inquiry was given and at what stage examination is being conducted.

(b) what are the reasons for which the Japanese Government failed to inform Indian Government about the consultation fees paid to Jyotsna Holding in London banks and whether Government have drawn the attention of Japanese Government to this breach of agreement or lapse regarding double taxation;

(c) whether Jyotsna Holding has revealed the fact about the commission or what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether under the code of conduct or guidelines Chartered Accountant has committed any breach for hiding the fact of FERA violation and what is the name of Chartered Accountant of Jyotsna Holding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) On the basis of information available with Directorate of Enforcement, certain investigations are already going on.

(b) As per agreement between India and Japan signed on 5th January, 1960, Japanese Government was not bound to inform our Government about payments

made to Indian residents by Japanese taxpayers. Hence there is no breach of agreement or lapse on their part.

(c) The agreements filed by M/s. Jyotsna Holding (P) Ltd. before the Income-tax authorities contained clauses regarding payment of consultant fee by M/s. Sumitomo Corporation. The relevant agreements already stand placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Code of Conduct framed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India do not contain any specific provision requiring the auditor to report on the violation by a company of any provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. As per balance sheet of the company as on 31st January, 1988 M/s. V. Dhingra & Co., New Delhi were the Chartered Accountants.

Increase in extremists' activities in Rajasthan

3939. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an increase in extremists' activities in Ganganagar District of Rajasthan ; and

(b) whether Government have decided to extend the barbed wire fencing at Indo-Pak border to Ganganagar District also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) While no appreciable increase in extremist activities has come to notice in the Ganganagar district of Rajasthan, there have been instances of Sikh extremists trying to infiltrate into India through this sector.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Preservation of endangered medicinal plants

@3939 A. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the magnitude of deforestation leading to extinction of medicinal plants and if so, what steps have been taken to preserve the endangered medicinal plants;

(b) whether Government have set up any Germplasm Banks for medicinal plants; and

(c), if so, what are the details thereof, indicating the names of main species covered ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) Studies carried out by the National Remote Sensing Agency with the help of satellite imagery have shown an estimated annual rate of deforestation of 1.3 million hectares between 1972—75 and 1980—82. However, no specific studies have been undertaken on the rate of extinction of medicinal plants.

The following steps have been taken to preserve the endangered medicinal plants —

(i) Trade and commerce in endangered species of flora have been regulated under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

(ii) Some rare plants of medicinal importance have been cultivated in the Indian Botanical Garden and experimental gardens located at different parts of the country.

(iii) Scientific propagation of medicinal plants is being done by organisations under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

@ Previously Unstarred Question 4077, transferred from the 31st August, 1988.